REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application in view of the present amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

A proposed drawing amendment is being filed contemporaneously with the present amendment. The proposed drawing amendment corrects reference numbers of Figs. 1 and 2 so that the reference numbers correspond to those set forth in the specification of the present invention. The proposed drawing amendment adds no new matter.

This amendment amends claims 1-4 and 6-8 and adds new claim 9. Amended claim 1 patentably defines over Sommerer, U.S. Patent No. 5,062,655, and over a combination of Stroh, U.S. Patent No. 6,257,795, in view of Sommerer.

Claim 1, as amended, recites an apparatus comprising a first suspension member and a second suspension member. The second suspension member has a through hole with a first tapered surface defining a first end of the through hole and a second tapered surface defining a second end of the through hole. The first and second tapered surfaces converge toward a center of the second suspension member. A cylindrical surface is interposed between the first and second tapered surfaces and defines a central portion of the through hole. A socket is connected with the first suspension member. A one-piece stud has a first end portion and a seccnd end portion. The socket supports the first end portion of the stud in the socket for pivotal movement relative to the socket. The

second end portion of the stud projects from the socket and completely through the through hole. The second end portion of said stud has a third tapered surface in engagement with the first tapered surface of the second suspension member. A fastener is secured to the second end portion of the stud. The fastener has a fourth tapered surface in engagement with the second tapered surface of the second suspension member. The second end portion of the stud extends completely through the fastener and the fastener causes the first and third tapered surfaces to be pressed together and causes the second and fourth tapered surfaces to be pressed together to secure the second suspension member relative to the second end portion of the stud. The socket and the stud support the first suspension member for movement relative to the second suspension member.

Sommerer fails to teach or suggest each feature of amended claim 1. Specifically, Sommerer fails to teach or suggest a cylindrical surface that is interposed between the first and second tapered surfaces of the second suspension member and defines a central portion of the through hole. The tapered surfaces of the through hole in ring 10 of the wheel carrier 2 of Sommerer join one another in the center of the ring 10. No cylindrical surface is present in the ring 10 of Sommerer. Therefore, allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Moreover, Sommerer fails to teach or suggest that a second end portion of the threaded pin 13 extends completely through the fastener, i.e., stationary bearing 8. In

Sommerer, the second end of the threaded pin 13 terminates in the first stationary bearing 8 and does not extend completely through the first stationary bearing. For this further reason, allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

With regard to a combination of Stroh and Sommerer, neither reference teaches or suggests a cylindrical surface that is interposed between first and second tapered surfaces of the second suspension member and defines a central portion of the through hole. Additionally, there is no teaching or suggestion to modify the recesses of Fig. 3 of Stroh with the tapered surfaces of Sommerer, as was suggested in the rejection of original claim 1. Stroh in Fig. 4 specifically teaches an embodiment that includes a tapered recess 17 and a tapered mounting stud 16 so as to provide precise positioning of the steering knuckle and the tie rod. Thus, there is no teaching or suggestion in Stroh to look elsewhere for methods using tapered surfaces for establishing the precise positioning of the steering knuckle 1 and the tie rod 2. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable over a combination of Stroh and Sommerer.

Moreover, a combination of Stroh and Sommerer only seems plausible using hindsight after having the benefit of the Applicants' disclosure. Without the teachings of the present invention, one of ordinary skill in the art would not even consider combining the teachings of Stroh and Sommerer to attempt to arrive at the presently claimed invention since Stroh teaches multiple embodiment for providing precise positioning of the steering knuckle 1 and the tie rod 2,

including the use of a tapered recess 17 and a tapered mounting stud 16. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable over a combination of Stroh and Sommerer.

Claims 2-9 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Additionally, claims 2-9 are allowable for the specific limitations of each claim.

Specifically, claim 2 recites that the stud has a longitudinal central axis on which the third tapered surface is centered. The third tapered surface extends at a first angle relative to the axis. The first and second tapered surfaces also extend at the first angle relative to the axis. Neither Sommerer nor Stroh teaches or suggests that the tapered surface of the stud and the first and second tapered surfaces of the second suspension member extend at the same angle relative to the axis of the stud. Since Sommerer and Stroh fail to teach or suggest this feature of claim 2, allowance of claim 2 is respectfully requested.

Claim 3 recites that the fourth tapered surface on the fastener also extends at the first angle relative to the axis when the fastener is secured to the second end portion of the stud. Sommerer and Stroh fail to teach or suggest this feature of claim 3. Therefore, allowance of claim 3 is respectfully requested.

Claim 6 recites that a cylindrical portion of the second end portion of the stud has a smaller diameter than the smallest diameter of the tapered surface of the stud. The cylindrical portion of the second end portion of the stud is spaced away from and extends parallel to the cylindrical

surface of the second suspension member when the third tapered surface is in abutting engagement with the first tapered surface. Sommerer and Stroh fail to teach or suggest a cylindrical portion of the second end portion of a stud being spaced away from and extending parallel to the cylindrical surface of the second suspension member when a tapered surface of the stud is in abutting engagement with a tapered surface of the second suspension member. Therefore, allowance of claim 6 is respectfully requested.

Claim 7 is allowable for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 3. Therefore, allowance of claim 7 is respectfully requested.

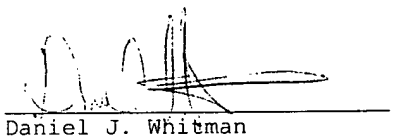
Claim 8 is allowable for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 6. Therefore, allowance of claim 8 is respectfully requested.

New claim 9 recites that the second end portion of the stud includes a terminal end having a hexagonal configuration. The terminal end is located on a side of the fastener opposite the first end portion when the fastener is secured to the second end portion of the stud. Sommerer and Stroh fail to teach or suggest this feature of claim 9. Therefore, allowance of claim 9 is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified patent application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the above-identified patent application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel J. Whitman
Reg. No. 43,987

TAROLLI, SUNDHEIM, COVELL,
& TUMMINO L.L.P.
526 Superior Avenue, Suite 1111
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-1400
Phone: (216) 621-2234
Fax: (216) 621-4072
Customer No.: 26,294